

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

UNIFORM HATS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Much has been written on this subject. My own feeling is I should like there to be a "nationally-uniform" straw hat for nurses in summer—one supplied by Garrould, and so well advertised on their page, that every nurse would be familiar with its shape. But to whom should we apply to decide on its form and shape? To the Matrons' Council? To the Head of the District Nurses' Association?

I know District Nurses in several parts of the country wear straw hats. I should be interested in knowing if they always adopt the well-known "sailor" and if there is any regulation as to height of crown, size of brim, &c.

I am, Yours truly,

E. CARRIE EVANS.

Swithland Home, Loughborough.

[The Queen's Nurses have a very neat Uniform hat—a cross between a sailor and a mushroom shape. It is made of Navy chip, or fine Pedal straw, with finely stitched silk bow. 6s. 6d., post free, from Long & Son, Waterloo House, High Wycombe.—ED.]

EVENINGS OUT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I always look in your journal for an expression of opinion on questions making for betterment in nurses' conditions, but so far have seen nothing on the correspondence going on in the *Glasgow Citizen* about nurses' evenings out. One probationer claims that nurses should have an evening off every week and a whole day a month; and, funnily enough, others write to object to such a reasonable suggestion. What do you think?

Yours truly,

Glasgow.

HOSPITAL SISTER.

[Frankly it never occurred to us that there could be any charitable institution in these days, which did not make provision for the nursing staff going off duty early on certain days weekly; it is such an immense relief to nurses to get away from the wards and right out of the institution, so that they may dine or sup with friends, attend entertainments—and thus relieve the tension. One whole day off duty a month, with breakfast in bed, if possible, is the greatest treat a nurse can have. We all know how stupefying all work and no play becomes after a time; it is not a healthy existence for any human being—especially for those whose lives must necessarily be largely governed by routine. Too much restriction, too little outside influence, produces the "pea-nut"

type of nurse. Her mind, and often her sympathies, become atrophied—when it is essential that her spirit should be bright and buoyant. As the old proverb says: "You can't pour out of a pitcher what isn't in it." A nurse is a pitcher who should go constantly to the spring of living waters—so that she may revivify her own, and the existence of those about her.—ED.]

NOBBLED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note an "anti-registration" journal considers that if nurses demanded State Registration they would get it. My way of demanding is to write to the press and ask editors to bring my letter to the notice of their readers; with the result that in the past twelve months my letters have been excluded by the *Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Chronicle*, the *Westminster Gazette*, the *Globe*, in the majority of which publications the "antis" have had their fling. The truth is that rich and powerful hospital governors have nobbled the London press on the nursing question; a discreditable condition of affairs well known in Fleet Street and Printing House Square. I quite agree with Lady Helen Munro Ferguson and Miss Haldane that if the nurses had political power we should have been registered ten years ago, and also our "demands" would not be flicked so airily into bottomless waste-paper baskets!

Yours truly,

A JOURNALIST NURSE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Puzzled Probationer.—It has only comparatively recently been understood that pneumonia is infectious, caused by a definite germ, the pneumococcus. The reason why the disease is most prevalent in the winter season is because the bodily resistance is lowered by cold and wet, but this is a predisposing cause only. The direct cause is infection by the pneumococcus.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

March 14th.—In what position will a bed-patient suffering from dyspnoea find greatest relief? State all that a nurse may do in devising comfortable support for the patient, and in what ways his position may be changed from time to time.

March 21st.—What are the duties of a nurse in the care of an infant for twenty-four hours after birth?

March 28th.—What are the characteristics of the urine in (a) fevers, (b) acute Bright's disease, (c) diabetes mellitus, (d) diabetes insipidus, (e) cystitis.

NOTICE.

We regret that owing to the space devoted to the important question of Nurses' Registration, we are quite overpowered by the demands on our space, and much interesting matter has, of necessity, been left over till our next issue.

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